

Blockades Key Messages – February 14, 2022

- Good afternoon.
- The RCMP continues to effectively manage a number of protests and blockades across the country - as the police of jurisdiction and in support of our POJ partners. This weekend was no exception.
- Over the last 10-12 days, there has been over 50 convoy protests in the RCMP jurisdiction's that were managed peacefully, through communication and negotiation.
- For example, on Saturday there was a slow roll protest in PEI. Operational plans were executed by Charlottetown Police and the RCMP, which prevented a possible blockade of the Confederation Bridge. The protest, which eventually rolled into Summerside was peaceful, managed by the police of jurisdiction and the RCMP.
- Other examples include the successful management of protests in Kelowna and Osoyoos in BC over the weekend, as well as at the Regway Crossing in Saskatchewan, where border traffic was slowed but not prevented. Protesters cooperated with the RCMP and no incidents occurred.
- This afternoon I will provide updates on **Windsor, Coutts, Emerson** and the **situation in BC** and of course Ottawa.

Windsor

- As you know, as of midnight normal operations resumed in **Windsor at the Ambassador Bridge**.
- In total, 32 arrests were made, and 37 vehicles were towed.
- Only a small number of protesters remain at the scene.

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- To maintain order in the area, law enforcement presence – including representatives from the RCMP – and patrols will remain high for the foreseeable future. Local road restrictions and barricades will also remain in place until further notice.

In terms of Emerson

- **Progress is being made. Yes, the POE is blockaded, however, there has been a further reduction in the number of vehicles with all campers/trailers that were occupying the tourist/visitor center are now gone from the site. And there are signs the tractors are getting ready to move.**
- Further, as has been the case throughout, essential services, including CBSA employees are able to come and go from the port and livestock shipments also continue.
- I would also note that there is minimal disruption to commercial traffic given the multiple POEs in the region.
- All that said, an operational plan is in place if enforcement becomes necessary due to a break down in communication with the protestors.

As for the situation in Coutts

- There was a successful operation overnight to remove a significant threat.
- While the investigation continues, I can tell you that several arrests were made and a large amount of weapons seized, **including 13 long guns, a number of handguns, magazines, and a large amount of ammunition.**
- The operation will continue throughout the day, including the removal of vehicles at the different road blocks.
- The Alberta government is currently working on an injunction, which will provide assistance to keep the area free of other protests.
- Our officers will need to maintain a safe perimeter while the blockade is dismantled.

[APG]

- The government of Alberta has also provided a number of tow trucks, which will assist in the removal of vehicles and other equipment.
- At this time, the port of entry remains closed.

In terms of British Columbia

- The POE at Pacific Highway is open; however, protest activity in the area has made it necessary to divert vehicle and traffic to alternate border crossings.
- Currently, there is no access to 176 Street south of 8th Avenue. In addition, 0 Avenue is blocked at 184 Street to westbound traffic. Police continue to work with area residents to keep the neighborhood near the border to local traffic only.
- Surrey RCMP is working with other provincial and federal RCMP units as well as the Canada Border Services Agency in response to this situation.
- Enforcement action is continuing today and officers are engaged with protesters in the area.

Moving back to Ottawa

- The OPS estimates that 505 trucks remain in the downtown core. Approximately 10 people on Parliament Hill and about 100 in the surrounding streets.
- However, the situation remains fluid as trucks relocate from residential neighbourhoods to Wellington Street following reports of a negotiation between the Mayor and a key organizer for the Freedom Convoy.
- Over the weekend, there were several confrontational standoffs between convoy participants and anti-convoy protestors.
- We anticipate that counter-protests will continue; a demonstration with about 20 people is scheduled to take place this evening in front of East Block, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

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- Maintaining order between both pro- and counter-convoy protestors is of utmost importance.
- I am pleased to report that **THE PLAN** has been officially endorsed by the OPS and it is being executed with the support of the RCMP and OPP.
- As noted yesterday, the numbers of deployed members fluctuate daily and per shift, but I can tell you that the RCMP continues to offer 250 uniformed members for the frontline, to the OPS to deploy at their discretion.
- As of 6:30AM we have been informed that the OPP has deployed 79 for frontline support, 41 for Public Order, and 10 for PLT.
- The RCMP also continues to have approximately 345 members deployed daily in support of our protective mandate.

If pressed only:

Emergencies Act

- Once invoked, ALL peace officers across the country – not just RCMP officers – will have additional tools to deal with public assemblies like the ones in Ottawa and Coutts – to counter the serious and prolonged disruption to the economy and the lives of citizens.
- What this means in real terms is that officers will now have the ability to:
 - prevent travel to areas where assembly is taking place;
 - prevent adults from bringing in children to these areas; and,
 - to compel persons to provide essential services to remove vehicles that are part of a blockade.
- I also think it is important to note that invoking the Act does nothing to change the authorities or mandate of the police of jurisdiction, but these new tools will be made available to them.

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